Virtual private network

593. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special scheme with affordable rates to enhance the network with Virtual Private Network (VPN) for the educational institutions in Kerala; and

(b) if so, whether any direction has been given to BSNL Kerala Circle to proceed with this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, presently there is no special scheme for Virtual Private Network (VPN) for the Educational Institutions in Kerala. No direction has been given to BSNL Kerala circle. However, an MOU has been signed between BSNL Kerala circle and Government of Kerala for provision of Broadband to schools (Secondary, HSE & VHSE) in Kerala under IT @school project.

Network Enhancement

594. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal made by State Government of Kerala requesting for approval for using the balance amount in the originally sanctioned amount by Central Government for the network enhancement; and

(b) if so, the status of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Components of the instant proposal were not within the provisions stipulated in the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Scheme approved by the Government. Hence, the proposal was not further considered for approval and this was communicated to the Kerala State in February 2009.

New telecom policy

595. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the department is preparing a work agenda for the new telecom policy to suit the present conditions of the country and to compete with the private telecom players;

(b) if so, the groundwork done so far to compete with private players; and

(c) the critical issues before Government to tackle like spectrum allocation and pricing and a comprehensive agenda for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The issues like auction of 3G & BWA Spectrum, licensing of Mobile Virtual Network Operators, Internet Telephony etc. are under active consideration of the Government.

BSNL's network capacity

596. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATONTECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL's network capacity of 99 million GSM expansion plans are stalled with the unsuccessful bidders moving the court against disqualification on technical grounds;

(b) whether BSNL has chosen the bid of Ericsson-Huawei combined for this GSM capacity expansion; and

(c) whether Government and securities agencies had raised objections to the selection of Huawei, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, the tenders for procurement of 93 million lines for GSM equipment were floated by the four zones of BSNL on 01.05.2008. The tenders were further divided into four parts as detailed below:

(i) Part I for 2G elements, Core and VAS elements.

(ii) Part II for 3G elements.

(iii) Part III for infrastructure items.

(iv) Part IV for operation and billing sub-systems.

M/s NSN had submitted their bids for part I and part II in North Zone and for Part II only in West and South Zones. These bids were found substantively non responsive after techno commercial evaluation. M/s NSN had approached Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana and Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh against disqualification of its bids in North and South zones respectively. Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana has not granted any stay, whereas Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh had stayed further proceedings for award of contract against Part II of the tender of South zone.

(b) Bids are still under evaluation and no final decision has been taken.

(c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Home Affairs/Intelligence Bureau have raised concern over the presence of foreign companies, especially from certain countries in the critical and sensitive border areas, that may have national security implications. Accordingly, a security guideline was issued to BSNL.

Speed post service

597. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: